United Nations E/C.2/2004/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2004

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2004 regular session
10-28 May 2004

Quadrennial reports for the period 1999-2002, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Colombian Commission of Jurists	2
2.	Conscience and Peace Tax International	4
3.	National Council of Negro Women	6
4.	Peace Action	7
5.	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues	9
6.	South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre	11
7.	Swedish Association for Sex Education	13
8.	Widows Rights International	15
9.	World Union of Catholic Women's Organization	16

04-26394 (E) 050404

1. Colombian Commission of Jurists*

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

1. Introduction

The Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ), established in 1988, is an affiliate of the Andean Commission of Jurists, a regional body based in Lima, Peru, and of the International Commission of Jurists, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Its mandate, according to the institutional statutes, is as follows: "*To contribute to the development of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, as well as to the Rule of Law and human rights in Colombia, through the following activities: a) research and dissemination of information on human rights and humanitarian law; b) promotion of knowledge about, and use of, pertinent legal standards and instruments; c) other means adequate for fulfilling its objectives.*"

2. Activities of the CCJ in Relation to the Organs of the United Nations

A. Commission on Human Rights

The CCJ took part each year in Commission sessions. Its participation included *written* interventions every year on Item 3 of the agenda (the general human rights situation in Colombia). *Oral* presentations were made beginning in 2001, as follows:

2001 (57th period): six oral interventions on Items 3, 10 (exigibility of economic, social and cultural rights), 11 (the crisis of the administration of justice), 12 (the violations of the rights of women), 14 (the world crisis of internal displacement), and 17 (the challenges and risks of human rights defenders). 2002 (58th period): six oral interventions on Items 3, 10, 12, 14, and 17, with similar content as in 2001, and on UN supervision of states of exception.

Together with other NGOs, the CCJ helped prepare and gave substantive support to the visit to Colombia of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in December 2000, helping set up her agenda and coordinating a meeting with human rights NGOs and social organizations. The CCJ made an oral presentation on the Colombian situation.

Office in Colombia of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights

The CCJ maintained permanent contact with the Office, providing pertinent information on the general human rights situation and on specific violations. Joint activities were undertaken, such as follow-up of State compliance with the recommendations of the Office's report before the Commission on Human Rights and of the Declaration of its Chair.

In 2001, the Office and the CCJ coordinated preparations for the visits of the Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders (October) and the Special Rapporteur on the Elimination of Violence against Women (November).

In 1999, on September 1-3, the Office and the CCJ held a seminar on transition toward democracy; the memoir was published in November 1999 with the title *Verdad y Justicia en Procesos de Paz o Transición a la Democracia* ("Truth and Justice in Peace Processes and Transition toward Democracy").

B. Thematic Procedures of the Commission on Human Rights:

The CCJ maintains permanent contact with several thematic procedures of the Commission, helping promote and prepare visits to Colombia, providing them with pertinent information, helping to establish their respective agendas, and providing substantive support during the visits. Such activities were carried out in support of visits by the Special Representative on Internally Displaced Persons (May 1999), the Special Representative on the Impact of Armed Conflicts on Children (June 1999), the Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders (October 2001), and the Special Rapporteur on the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 2001).

* Issued without formal editing.

C. Subsidiary Organs: UNHCR:

The CCJ maintains permanent contact with UNHCR, both its Bogotá office and Geneva Headquarters. As part of the NGO coordination group on displacement GDF (Grupo de ONG sobre Desplazamiento Forzado, NGO Group on Forced Displacement), and previously within Partners in Action (PARinAC), the CCJ took part as focal point in the annual sessions of the pre-Executive and Executive Committee and, beginning in 2001, presented analytical reports reflecting the position of the NGOs on the displacement situation: in 2001, *Aspectos Generales de Preocupación* ("General Issues of Concern"), and in 2002, with the NGO Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement –CODHES), *Aspectos Críticos de la Política Pública de Atención a la Población en Situación de Desplazamiento, 1998-2002* ("Critical Aspects of Public Policy of Attention to the Displaced Population").

In August 2001, members of the Senior Interagency Network on Internal Displacement visited Colombia and carried out an evaluation of the work of UN agencies with respect to displacement. The CCJ gave active support to the visit and, together with other NGOs, prepared an analytical document called *Reflexiones y Recomendaciones sobre la Crisis Humanitaria en Colombia y el Desplazamiento Forzado* ("Reflexions and Recommendations on the Humanitarian Crisis in Colombia and Forced Displacement").

On March 27-29 2001, at the invitation of UNHCR, the CCJ attended the conference "Lessons Learned: Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Refuge Situations," held in Geneva. The CCJ's lawyer responsible for women's rights intervened on the importance of broadening and strengthening the work of UNHCR on displacement in Colombia.

In November 2002, the UN High Commissioner on Refugees visited Colombia. The CCJ took part in various meetings and, jointly with other NGOs, prepared the *Document for the High Commissioner on Refugees, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, on his visit to Colombia, November 27-29, 2002,* which presents a broad view of the situation of the forcibly displaced in Colombia at the time of the visit.

D. Treaty Bodies:

a. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, November 12-30, 2001

Within the framework of the Colombian Platform on Human Rights, Democracy and Development, the CCJ contributed to draft the *Alternate Report to the Committee of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Economic Rights* for presentation at the November 2001 session. A CCJ staff member attended the sessions and made an oral presentation regarding the Colombian government's compliance with previous Committee recommendations.

b. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, July 30, 1999

An analysis was prepared regarding the situation of economic, social and cultural rights among racial minorities in Colombia, specifically indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians. This information was used in preparing an *"Alternate Report to the Ninth Official Report Presented by the Colombian State before the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination."* The work on this report was coordinated with the Bogotá Office of the Commissioner on Human Rights and was presented to the Committee on July 30, 1999.

c. Committee on the Rights of the Child, October 16, 2000

An *"Alternate Report to the Second Official Report of the Colombian State to the Committee on the Rights of the Child"* was prepared by the CCJ and other specialized NGOs and presented at the Committee in Geneva on October 16th 2000. The CCJ also participated in the presentation and analysis of the Colombian State's official report to the Committee.

E. Conferences

- World Conference on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD):

On December 4-5, 2000, the CCJ took part in the Citizens' Preparatory Conference held in Santiago. On December 5-7, 2000, the CCJ took part in the Preparatory Conference for the Americas, likewise held in Santiago, Chile. Between May 21st and June 1st 2001, the CCJ took part in the second session of the Preparatory Committee, carried out in Geneva.

In the context of the World Conference, the CCJ participated in the Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations, held on August 28th through September 3rd, 2001. Finally, between August 31st and September 7th 2001, a CCJ delegation took part in the World Conference itself, held in Durban, South Africa. The CCJ presented the previously-prepared answers to the *"Questionnaire distributed by the High Commissioner in Application of Item a), Paragraph 49 of Resolution 1999/78 of the Commission on Human Rights..."*, a 33-page document with an assessment of the advances and failures of government policies against racism and other forms of discrimination in Colombia.

- 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly on "Women in 2000: Gender, Development and Peace in the 21st Century," New York, June 5-9, 2000.

Jointly with the Colombian NGO "Maria Va", and with the backing of the National Association of Campesino and Indigenous Women of Colombia (ANMUCIC), a document was prepared called *"Mujer: derechos humanos y derecho humanitario en Colombia"* ("Woman: Human rights and Humanitarian Law in Colombia"). Said document presents a diagnostic on the situation of women victims of the Colombian armed conflict; it also contains recommendations and an attachment with an analysis of the international legal framework on the subject. The document was submitted to the High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict. It was also widely distributed at the special session on Beijing Plus 5.

F. International Labour Organization (ILO):

In the four years that concern us, the CCJ participated in June of each year in the International Labour Conference in Geneva. Each year, the CCJ prepared a document on violations of the rights of unionised workers in Colombia to be presented at the Conference by the three main labour-union federations. Likewise, in November of 1999, 2000 and 2001, but not in 2002, the CCJ took part in the meetings of the ILO Board of Management. A primary objective of our participation in Board meetings was to assure the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry on the situation of unionised workers in Colombia.

G. International Criminal Court:

In 1999 the CCJ took part in the three Preparatory Committee meetings held that year, in February, July and December, in New York.

2. Conscience and Peace Tax International*

(Special consultative status granted in July 1999)

Summary CPTI advocates for the right to conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT) and for the right to pay taxes to build a culture of peace. CPTI works at the yearly sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights and among NGO's accredited with the UN in New York and Geneva.

1. INTRODUCTION Aims: CPTI's aim is to obtain recognition of the right to conscientious objection to paying taxes for armaments, war preparation and war conduct.

CPTI supports other forms of conscientious objection as a human right.

CPTI lobbies international organizations in order to obtain and/or improve legal and other provisions. The provisions may be national and international legislation, conventions, resolutions, directives, declarations etc.

CPTI facilitates coordination of similar activities of national movements who address international organizations.

Membership: Geographical membership has increased in 2000 by the joining of organizations in Japan, Hungary and Norway.

* Issued without formal editing.

Affiliation: CPTI is member of the Conference of NGO's (CONGO).

2. PARTICIPATION IN ECOSOC BODIES AND MEETINGS a) Since 1999 CPTI has three representatives in New York and three in Geneva (only one of them based in Geneva since 2002). All are volunteers. CPTI has focused its action toward the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and New York. b) CPTI representatives attended the 57th and 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights (two representatives in 2001 and three in 2002). c) CPTI submitted a written statement on item 11g of the agenda: E/CN.4/2001/NGO/101: *"The human right not to pay for war and the human duty to pay for peace"*. d) A CPTI representative presented an oral statement at the 57th session in April 2001: on both the violation of conscience by forced payment of taxes for military use and on the Decade of a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence of the Children of the World. e) CPTI's oral statement at the 58th session in April 2002 could not be delivered because of the delay in the agenda, but was circulated to the member states by the secretariat. It dealt with conscientious objectors requesting to pay taxes for civil conflict resolution.

3. COOPERATION WITH UN BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

a) CPTI representatives participated in the Millennium Forum (N.Y., May 22-26, 2000) where they brought **c**onscientious **o**bjection to **m**ilitary **s**ervice (COMS) and **c**onscientious **o**bjection to **m**ilitary **t**axation (COMT) into the debate. Upon consideration of their proposal the following text was included: *"In the context of the right not to be complicit in killings, we call for full legal recognition of the rights of conscientious objectors."* (*We the Peoples Millennium Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action*, May 2002, under D4 (universal realization of human rights), last paragraph, p. 17). b) CPTI representatives attend DPI (Department of Public Information) briefings in New York.

4. OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

(i) Action to implement UN resolutions on international, regional or national level:

a) CPTI representatives gave workshops and talks on COMT in international peace conferences. b) CPTI stimulates lobby efforts with national legislators in various countries on the right of conscientious objection. c) CPTI representatives introduced the issue **c**onscientious **o**bjection to **m**ilitary **s**ervice (COMS) and **c**onscientious **o**bjection to **m**ilitary **t**axation (COMT) at the conference of the European Network for Peace and Human Rights, organized by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation (Brussels, Belgium, Jan 31-Feb. 1, 2002). As a result the conference report stated: *"As a matter of urgency we strive to (...) give support to prisoners of conscience, and to those campaigning for the right to conscientious objection to military service and taxation."*

(ii) Consultation and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat:

March 25, 2002, New York: CPTI representatives met with the Interim Deputy Director for the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Associate Human Rights Officer.

(iii) Preparation of papers etc. at the request of the ECOSOC or UN Secretariat:

CPTI explored ways in Geneva and New York to support the report on "best practices" requested in resolution 2000/34.

(iv) Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.

a) May 14, 2002 in New York: CPTI representatives organized a Consultation for NGO's on conscientious objection, best practices, Commission on HR, Committee on Human Rights, the work of special rapporteurs, UN standards, ICCPR. b) June 15, 2002, New York: CPTI was a founding member of the *UN NGO Working Group on Conscientious Objection*, which meets monthly) In conjunction with the Third Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for the UN special Session on Children, CPTI, cosponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the N.Y. Peace Caucus, offered a panel program: *"Educating Youth about their Human Right of Conscientious Objection"* (N.Y., June 12, 2001). Transcript can be found on www.cpti.ws. d) A unit on conscientious objection was written for *Learning to Abolish War: Teaching Toward a Culture of Peace* (Book 2, p. 126-129). The book is available from The Hague Appeal for Peace. e) August 21,

2002, New York: CPTI representatives met with the USA Mission at the UN about the country report on best practices in regard to COMS. f) CPTI representatives participate actively in the CONGO sub-committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

3. National Council of Negro Women*

(General consultative status granted in 1975)

Purpose of Organization: The National Council of Negro Women, INC. (NCNW) is a voluntary non-profit membership organization with the mission to advance the opportunities and quality of life for African American and African women, their families and communities. The National Council of Negro Women fulfills this mission through research, advocacy, national, international and community based service programs in the United States and Africa. With its 38 National Affiliate organizations, and the more than 200 community based sections. The National Council of Negro Women, Inc., has an outreach to nearly four million women all contributing to peaceful solutions of human welfare and rights. Its founder Mary McLeod Bethune described it best by this statement: *"There is a need for united organization of women to open doors for our young women, united so that when it speaks, its power will be felt"*. The National Council of Negro Women is an organization of organizations.

Geographical Membership: There has been no geographical membership structure change within the National Council of Negro Women funding sources have not changed substantially within the past four years. Its funds come primarily from membership dues, special events, corporations, foundations and government grants for specific programs.

Affiliations to International NGO in Consultative Status:

The Ghana Association of Women Entrepreneurs (GAWE).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council/and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings through attendance at meetings: oral and or written statements.

1999- The National Council of Negro Women United Nations representatives attended monthly briefings held by the Department of Public Information as well as distributed over 500 copies of the United Nations *Africa Recovery* at the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., National Convention in Washington. D.C. In addition, the National Council of Negro Women's representative worked with the Department of Public Information/NGO 52nd Annual conference *"Challenges of a Globalize World: Find New Directions"*, assisted with planning and getting information out to NGOs representatives to encourage attendance.

2000- The National Council of Negro Women's United Nations representatives and its Executive Director participated in the 2000 United Nations Beijing + Five Conference held at UN headquarters in New York. The organization conducted workshops at the Borough of Manhattan Community Colleges, examining issues of sexual harassments, pay equity and the provision of child care services for working women. The workshop drew a diverse group of representatives from organizations working on issues affecting working women at all levels of society.

At the National Council of Negro Women's New York State Conference, the United Nations representative conducted a workshop on the importance of the work of the United Nations and distributed 200 copies of *Africa Recovery*. In addition, the National Council of Negro Women participated in UNA/USA briefings both in New York and Washington, D.C. The National Council of Negro Women's representative also worked on the 53rd Annual Department of Public Information and the Non-Governmental Organizations Annual Conferences: *The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century* assisted with contacting NGOs and distributed information about

* Issued without formal editing.

the conference to the National Council of Negro Women's membership to ensure their participation in the Conference.

2001- The National Council of Negro Women participated in the World Conference against *Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in South Africa.* Representatives of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., held in South Africa. Representatives of the National council of Negro Women, Inc., headed a delegation to the conference and the organization conducted a Workshop at the conference and the organization conducted a Workshop at the Conference and presented a paper at the Conference entitled: *"Economic Development and Gender-Based Discrimination: A Survey of Current Issues and Future Perspectives" (copy attached).* In addition, the organization representatives also participated in the 54th Annual DPI/NGO Conference was cut short because of events of September 11, 2001 we were able to get a good number of National Council of Negro Women, Inc., volunteers involved in the Conference closing actives.

2002- The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. representative participated in the 55th *Annual Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility.* The National Council of Negro Women's Representatives attended all weekly briefing of the Department of Public. In addition, the United Nations representatives serves on the Executive Director Committee of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee. The UN representative participated in the United Nations Association meeting and other meetings to keep NCNW constituency informed about the work of the United Nations. The representatives distributed over 200 copies of the *"Africa Recovery"* magazine to National Council of Negro Women constituencies in the Tri-state area and in other cities including, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and New Jersey.

Cooperation with UN bodies and Specialized Agencies

The National Council of Negro Women's representative worked closely with the **Department of Public Information** assisting with the Department mailing and other support activities connected to the Annual Conference and weekly briefings. Worked the **United Nations Press Office** to host a press briefing in support of the *World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in South Africa.* The purpose of the briefing was to reach the Ethnic Press which covers the American Indian, Hispanic, Asian and African American Communities to share information about the importance of the Conference.

4. Peace Action*

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Summary

Peace Action, the largest grassroots peace organization in the United States, has actively promoted the United Nations as an important venue for building security and peace through national campaigns with grassroots and international elements. At the UN Peace Action regularly attends ECOSOC conferences, organizing and participating in supporting NGO events. On the national level, we mobilize grassroots pressure on US policy makers and elected leaders to work through the UN to resolve conflicts, a particularly strong focus for us since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Mission

Peace Action is the USA's largest grassroots peace and justice organization with 9 1,000 members, twenty-seven state affiliates and 100 local chapters. Peace Action works to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, promote government

* Issued without formal editing.

spending priorities that support human needs and encourage a foreign policy that embodies respect for human rights. To accomplish these goals, Peace Action uses a combination of

educational outreach, activist training and public mobilization. Peace Action works to build the solid base of organized, informed and skilled grassroots activists who are essential to achieving lasting peace with justice.

Peace Action's programs promote social change by connecting the grassroots peace movement to policy makers in the Administration, Congress, and the United Nations. Peace Action programs increase the effectiveness of grassroots work by providing a variety of print and electronic resources, trainings, and national campaign coordination to grassroots activists.

Peace Action is a member of the International Peace Bureau (Geneva), which has roster-level ECOSOC consultative status.

ECOSOC meetings

Peace Action sent representatives to attend the following UN meetings and to participate in the related NGO activities:

- World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg - 2002): Peace Action sponsored regular coordination meetings for other NGOs working on peace as it relates to development. Peace Action also participates in NGO forums during the Commission on Sustainable Development and attends the official sessions.

- Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid - 2002): Peace Action organized a workshop on the need for peaceful solutions to world conflicts to provide health care, housing, food, and other basic needs for the many elderly in the developing world.

- World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (Durban - 1999)

- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, United Nations, May 2001

- World Conference on Children: Committees on Child Soldiers, Indigenous Children 2002

3. Cooperation with UN bodies or specialized agencies

In the four-year period covered by this report, Peace Action has undertaken the following actions:

- Mobilized public support for the United States to work through the United Nations to address security concerns, particularly since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

- Focused on media work including letters to the editor, newspaper articles, and radio and television interviews as well as paid advertising in newspapers and on public transit.

- Organized presentations on the UNESCO Culture of Peace program in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh (2001).

- Attended the Commission on the Status of Women, continuing participation in related NGO events.

- Participated in the Millennium Forum (New York - 2000).

Reported on the work of the UN General Assembly's First Committee, as well as the Conference on Disarmament, as part of a weekly legislative update email to Grassroots activists. Peace Action worked with other ECOSOC NGOs (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the International Alliance of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms) and CONGO member NGO Committee on Disarmament to advocate for a strong outcome of the UNGA's First Committee's work.

4. Other relevant activities

The Campaign for a New Foreign Policy

Starting in late 2003, Peace Action kicked off the Campaign for a New Foreign Policy to promote US leadership in reducing the threat from weapons of mass destruction (particularly nuclear weapons), halting the sale of arms to human rights abusing nations and fostering international cooperation, particularly via the United Nations. Peace Action members across the United States are undertaking education campaigns to reach policymakers, including Congressional Representatives, Senators and Presidential candidates, with the message that global institutions and agreements are paramount to ensuring global stability and security.

Most Americans support the United Nations. We have been working to demonstrate that support, from the grassroots to Capitol Hill, so we have been working to get national and local endorsements for this campaign from a wide range of organizations, including those that represent African-Americans, Latinos, women, faith communities and labour.

Peace Action is also very active with the Department for Public Information, including assisting with the organizing of the DPI's annual conference. Peace Action heads up the NGO Peace Caucus and has participated in the NGO Working Group on the Security Council and the NGO Caucus for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples. Peace Action is a member of the United Nations Association (USA) and the NGO Committee on Disarmament (New York). Peace Action also tracks and report on the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

5. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues*

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

INTRODUCTION

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) of about 3,500 psychologists and allied social scientists who share a common interest in research, education, public policy and advocacy on the psychological aspects of important social issues. Formed in 1936 and incorporated independently, SPSSI is also Division 9 of the American Psychological Association (APA). The Society seeks to bring theory and practice into focus on human problems at the group, community, national and international levels. This is accomplished through conferences; grants and fellowships, the publication of *The Journal of Social Issues* (JSI); *ASAP* (Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy), a new electronic journal; a variety of SPSSI-sponsored books; the *SPSSI Newsletter*; as well as the Society's web site.

* Issued without formal editing.

During the 1999-2002 period, the third quadrennial review period for SPSSI, the Society moved from its Ann Arbor Michigan office to new headquarters in Washington, DC. It has maintained its international membership with representation from 55 countries in 2002 and with international representation on its governing Council. SPSSI has provided the opportunity for free membership to scholars and students in other countries, particularly those characterized by developing or transitional socio-political economies. There was no substantial change in the sources of the Society's funding during the period covered by this quadrennial review, although there was a decrease in income.

In addition to its accreditation to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), SPSSI held Consultative Status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI). The Society was a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) and collaborated with various non-governmental organizations and UN partners to identify persistent and emerging international issues, bringing to bear on those issues social science principles and findings that may help to promote the development and implementation of effective public policies and programmes. The Society also explored ways of bridging the work of social scientists and representatives of the UN system, developing opportunities for dialogue that contain the potential for illuminating and benefiting both perspectives.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council, Its Subsidiary Bodies and Conferences

General Assembly Special Sessions, World Conferences and Observances

Between 1999 and 2002, the Society actively participated in the preparatory processes for the General Assembly Special Session on the World Summit for Social Development and Beyond (2000); Beijing + 5 (2000); the Millennium Summit (2000); and the General Assembly Special Session on Children (2002). For the GA Session on Children, a Representative of the Society played a leadership role in preparing a Non-Governmental Organization Document on "Advancing Partnerships in Disseminating Reports on the Implementation of Children's Rights at the Country Level."

The Society was also active in preparations for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001); the Conference on the Problem of Human ImmunoDeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (2001); the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002); and the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002). For the Assembly on Ageing, Society members attended both the NGO Forum and the Assembly in Madrid, and presented a Roundtable at the Forum on "The Role of NGO's in Influencing the Living Environments of an Ageing Population." The same year, a SPSSI UN NGO Representative was a presenter on the 2002 UN Global Video Conference on Ageing.

Working through a broad range of NGO Committees (UNICEF, the Status of Women, Human Rights, Mental Health, Sustainable Development, Social Development and Ageing), the Society's policy development and advocacy efforts involved: (1) developing, editing, and sponsoring position papers and drafts of recommendations intended to influence the language of UN policy documents; (2) programs to educate about UN conventions and related issues; and (3) consultative and advocacy outreach to UN agency representatives and members of the diplomatic community monitoring and supporting the implementation of UN conventions and action plans.

UN Commissions

The Society's Representatives actively and consistently followed the ongoing work of several UN Commissions, particularly the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. In this context, the Society's participation aimed to contribute to the appraisal of the progress on the agenda of world conferences and to identify effective strategies for addressing emerging issues, including developing and distributing position statements and hosting various issue panels.

Cooperation with United Nations Programmes, Bodies and Specialized Agencies

UN Department of Public Information (DPI)

SPSSI UN/NGO Representatives regularly attended the weekly DPI/NGO briefings, served on the DPI/NGO Executive Board, and presented a midday NGO Session at the 55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference (2002) on "Psychosocial and Structural Elements of Conflict Resolution, Forgiveness and Healing."

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The Society continued its major commitment to children through its representative on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and through consultative relationships with several UNICEF offices, particularly the Gender, Partnerships and Participation Section of the Program Division. During the 1999 to 2002 period, a SPSSI UN NGO Representative was in the leadership of the Working Group on the Rights of the Child of the NGO Committee on UNICEF. The Society held membership in two other working groups of the NGO Committee on UNICEF: The International Network on Girls and Children in Armed Conflict.

World Health Organization

SPSSI served on the Executive Committee of the new NGO Committee on Mental Health, and worked with representatives of WHO in New York and Geneva to integrate consideration of psycho-social well-being and mental health concerns into the UN's agenda. The Society, working with the NGO Committee on Mental Health, advocated for the inclusion of mental health issues within a broader context of lifespan concerns such as vulnerable populations, human rights, poverty, violence, refugees, and substance abuse.

OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Actions to Implement UN Resolutions

The Society's work at the UN is broadly framed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with special focus on the following instruments: the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration Against Violence Against Women, and action plans established at UN world conferences, including the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

Other Examples of Consultative and Substantive Activities

The Society reported regularly on its activities at the UN in its Newsletter. It continued to integrate the UN's agenda within the meetings of regional, national and international organizations of psychologists, including the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association. At the Society's biennial convention, it regularly shares with its membership the activities of it UN/NGO Representatives relating to the ongoing issues on the UN agenda. Examples include two roundtable sessions at the 2002 biennial meeting, "SPSSI at the UN: Issues for the 21st Century" and "The Effects of Intercultural Disparities on Refugee Identity." The Society's electronic Journal *ASAP* (Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy) carried articles on topics of importance for achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), e.g. "Environmentally Responsible Behavior: Teaching and Promoting it Effectively." In the period 1999 to 2002, the Society's *Journal of Social Issues* devoted attention to cross-cutting issues relevant to the (MDGs) including: "International Perspectives on the Well-Being of Older Adults" (2002), "Listening to the Voices of Poor Women" (2001), "Immigrants and Immigration" (2001), "Gender, Hierarchy, and Leadership" (2001), and "Promoting Environmentalism" (2000).

6. South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre*

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

1) Brief introductory statement: South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC) is a network of individuals committed to advance education of the public by means of securing throughout South Asia and elsewhere the observance of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(i) Increase in geographical membership:

The geographic membership increased to 115. All members of SAHRDC are individual members. The breakdown of

* Issued without formal editing.

membership is given below:

Asia: Bangladesh-10 individuals, Bhutan-5 individuals, India- 50 individuals, Indonesia – 5 individuals, Nepal: 10 individuals, Pakistan: 5 individuals, Sri Lanka- 5 individuals.

Americas: United States-5 individuals.

Europe: Italy- 5 individuals , Netherlands- 5 individuals, United Kingdom- 5 individuals

(ii) Any substantial changes in sources of funding: There are no substantial changes in sources of funding

(iii) Any affiliation to an international NGO in consultative status: No

2) Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meeting.

2000

56th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights
Geneva, 20 March – 28 April 2000

SAHRDC submitted the following written statements:

Item 10 of the provisional agenda: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL CULTURAL RIGHTS

Item 14 (c) of the provisional agenda: SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: MASS EXODUSES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Item 15 of the provisional agenda: INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Item 17 (b) of the provisional agenda: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

2001

World Conference Against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, 2001

SAHRDC's Executive Director and Deputy Director participated in the Asian Regional Preparatory Conference held in Tehran on 19-21 February 2001

SAHRDC's delegation headed by the Executive Director participated in the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa on 31 August to 7 September 2001.

2002

58th Session of the Commission on Human Rights
Geneva, 18 March – 30 April 2002

SAHRDC submitted the following written statements:

Item 10 of the provisional agenda: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Item 11 (f) of the provisional agenda: CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCULDING THE QUESTIONS OF: STATES OF EMERGENCY

Item 14 (c) of the provisional agenda: SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: MASS EXODUSES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Item 17 (b) of the provisional agenda: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Item 18 (b) of the provisional agenda: EFFECTIVE FUNCTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

3) Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies:

In 2000, SAHRDC's Deputy Director was hired by the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in his individual capacity to evaluate the Technical Cooperation Project on "strengthening the Administration of Justice and Building National Human Rights Capacity (NEP/95/AH/21) between the Government of Nepal and the OHCHR.

In 2000, SAHRDC's Deputy was hired in his individual capacity to evaluate Technical Cooperation Project for Strengthening National Infrastructures for the promotion of human rights in Mongolia (MON/98/AH/03) between the Government of Nepal and the OHCHR.

4) Other relevant activities:

(i) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions (i.e. action at international, regional or national level);

SAHRDC has been active in implementation of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights resolution on National Human Rights Institutions in the Asia Pacific region by developing partnership with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and different National Human Rights Commissions.

(ii) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat;

South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre organized meeting between Head of Geographical Team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for briefing the NGOs from the Asia-Pacific region participating in the 56th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on 13 April 2000.

(iii) Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, or of the United Nations Secretariat;

In 2001, SAHRDC was hired by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, to conduct studies on civil and political rights of children in South Asian and refugee and Internally Displaced Children in South Asian Atlas of Children and Women 2001 Edition to be published by UNICEF-South Asia Regional Office.

(iv) Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc: Not applicable.

7. Swedish Association for Sex Education*

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

1. Introduction

The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) was founded in 1933 as a non-profit organization, with no party-political, trade union or religious affiliation, with the aim of promoting programmes for sexual and reproductive health, facilitating access to contraceptives and counselling services, sexuality education and family planning as a human right. RFSU combines service delivery and advocacy strategies, and brings a grass-roots perspective to the issues. RFSU also works internationally, running institutional collaboration projects, mainly sponsored by development assistance funds.

Membership. RFSU has a national membership, comprising 10 local branches and 21 organizations.

Affiliation. RFSU is an affiliated member of the International Planned

* Issued without formal editing.

Parenthood Federation (IPPF), in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

RFSU representatives have attended: The Preparatory Committee for ICPD+S 24-31 March 1999, New York. The International Forum 8-12 February 1999 in The Hague. 44th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and Third Session of the Preparatory Committee of the UN General Assembly Special Session 28 February-17 March 2000, New York. First Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001 for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children, 30 May-2 June 2000. Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly " Women 2000" 5-9 June 2000, New York. Third Substantive Session of the Preparatory Commission for the Special Session on Children, 11-15 June 2001, New York. WHO/UNICEF Global Consultation on Child and Adolescent Health and Development, 12-13 March 2002, Stockholm. Commission on Population and Development, thirty-fifth Session, 1-5 April 2002, New York. Twenty-seventh Session of the General Assembly " Special Session of the General Assembly on Children" 8-10 May 2002, New York. United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS 25-27 June 2002, New York. ESCAP/UNFPA Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference 11-17 December 2002, Bangkok.

In addition can be mentioned that RFSU was represented in the Swedish Government Delegations to the UN Conferences Cairo +5 in 1999, Beijing +5 in 2000, the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in 2001 and to the " World Food Summit five years later" and the ESCAP/UNFPA Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 2002.

3. Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

RFSU has a lengthy cooperation with UNFPA. RFSU is a member of the European NGO Network, EuroNGO, and part of the Face-to-Face Campaign, where UNFPA is actively involved. UNFPA's Goodwill Ambassador in Sweden was introduced by RFSU. Together with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs RFSU has launched the UNFPA reports The State of World Population in 1999, 2000 and 2001. RFSU was one of the Swedish Focal Point NGOs in the Cairo +5 process. Currently FWSU works on the Reproductive Health Commodity Security where UNFPA is very instrumental.

4. Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions.

In all domestic advocacy, policy and recourse mobilization work and in all international projects RFSU promotes the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (ICPD) and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing. RFSU is actively involved in several networks in Sweden, Europe and Africa where the ICPD PoA and other UN resolutions like the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW) form an important foundation in the development of new projects and advocacy strategies.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

RFSU has an ongoing, direct dialog with UNFPA officials (Executive Director, former Deputy Executive Director for Programme and others) by letter, email as well as by mutual visits. RFSU has current contacts with UNFPA Liaison Offices in Geneva and Copenhagen. RFSU was on the EuroNGO Steering Committee in **1999,** 2000 and 2001 (chair) which meant frequent contacts with the UNFPA officials in Geneva.

Consultative and substantive activities

Already in 1997 RFSU received a UNFPA grant for Swedish public education on the Cairo agenda (ICPD PoA). Since 2002 the organization also receives funding from UNFPA for a project called " Targeting Young Decision-Makers in Sweden on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Population" . The objective of RFSU's work with mobilization of policy and recourses related to sexual and reproductive health and population is to enhance and safeguard the Swedish commitment towards the Cairo agenda and to mobilize support for an increase in the overall Swedish overseas development aid (ODA) and most specifically the funding for sexual and reproductive health and population. RFSU advocates that Sweden should allocate 10 percent of the ODA for sexual and reproductive health.

Examples of interventions, activities and consultations

Breakfast meeting in the Swedish Parliament in February 2002 with UNFPA representatives from New York and the African Region, hosted by RFSU and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Population. (RFSU provides secretariat for this group.) Hearing in the Swedish Parliament - requested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs - in March 2002, preparing for the 3Yh Commission on Population and Development, hosted by RFSU and the Swedish All-Party Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Population. The UNFPA Face-to-Face MORI Study on Sweden was translated into Swedish in 2002. The booklet Sexuality and Rights (UNFPA funded the Swedish version in 1999) was translated into English in 2001. An RFSU representative attended the UNFPA Reproductive Health and Contraceptive Supply Security Meeting in New York in November 2000 with RFSU intervention at the meeting.

Courses/lectures/other activities involving RFSU representatives:

Lectures on " Abortion and Ethical Consideration" and " Youth Friendly Services" at the WHO meeting " Safe Abortion: A WHO Technical Consultation to Develop Technical and Policy Guidance for Health Systems" in Geneva in September 2000. Lectures on Swedish experiences in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People were held during two one-week training courses in Barnaul and Novosibirsk, Russia, in March 2001, at the request of UNDP/UNFPA Russia. In autumn 200 1 RFSU arranged two one-week study visits to Sweden for professionals from Russia at the request of UNFP/Russia. The visits were part of the UNFPN/Russia project

" Reproductive Health and Rights of Youth in the Russian Federation" . At the request of UNFPA and in cooperation with the organization Engender Health a one-week workshop on Sexuality was held in New York in January 2002 for UNFPA regional staff (worldwide stationed). A training course on Youth Sexuality was carried through in Sarajevo in 2002 at the request of UNFPN/Sarajevo.

8. Widows Rights International*

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Aims and Purposes (Introductory Statement)

The main objects of Widows Rights International (WRI) – formerly Empowering Widows in Development (EWD)– are to support widows' and women's groups which are contesting the inequalities and injustices which have been imposed on widows of all ages by law and custom. To achieve this WRI has established a partnership with such groups to whom information is sent by means of a bimonthly electronic newsletter on ways in which harmful laws and customs have been challenged either through the courts or through lobbying local, regional or national parliaments to change oppressive laws. This information is also posted on WRI's website. WRI seeks to support individual groups of women who are challenging the dispossession of widows, deserted or divorced women through its Fighting Fund for Widows Rights.

Changes in funding and management

WRI has been able to move from being managed day to day by Trustees to a more formal and regular office arrangement thanks to a grant received in 2003 from an international aid agency. It has thus been able to employ a part-time administrator and is now actively seeking to expand its contact with widows and women's groups in Africa, South and South East Asia, and East Asia.

Participation in conferences of ECOSOC or other UN entities, cooperation with UN entities and other relevant activities

Under its former name (EWD), Widows Rights International's representative has attended the 45th, 46th, 47th sessions and will attend 48th conference of the Commission on the Status of Women, this year.

At the 45th session the Organization's International Advocate addressed the delegates on the subject of the gross violation of widows' rights. At the 47th session, again, the International Advocate made a statement to delegates on the violence meted out to widows and invited the 47th meeting to acknowledge this area of gender-violence by formulating appropriate recommendations in the final documents. The, Chair of CEDAW agreed, in response to a question on the neglect of widows' rights, to address States Parties' treatment of widows, when examining their four-yearly reports on compliance with the UN Women's Convention.

A petition on this topic signed by over 30 NGOs was presented to the delegates.

In June 2000 one of the Organization's partners was asked to make a statement on widowhood for the special session on women of the General Assembly.

In 2001 the Organization's international advocate was guest speaker on the Panel organised by CONGO and UNDAW on the theme "HIV/AIDS in Women and Girls". At most sessions, special

* Issued without formal editing.

meetings have been arranged to discuss issues around the lack of widows' rights and equally the absence of focus on this important human rights issue by international aid agencies and members of the UN system itself. CEDAW has been formally requested to include questions on the status and rights of widows in the questionnaires sent to governments on the implementation of the Convention.

As a member of the UK Women's National Commission, WRI attends the preparatory briefings for CSW and collaborates in activities organised by UK's Women's National Commission at the UN. The International Advocate participated in a Council of Europe meeting in 2001 on "Women in conflict resolution".

9. World Union of Catholic Women's Organization*

(Special consultative status granted in 1947)

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) works for the ***advancement of women by promoting the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in church and society.*** Founded in 1910, it has 100-member organizations representing all continents in 61 countries, including 5 international organizations. New members have joined from Mali, Namibia, Paraguay, Thailand and Venezuela. WUCWO, in consultative status with ECOSOC, is represented at UN Headquarters in New York, Geneva and Paris. In addition, WUCWO is active with the following UN Agencies: UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNESCO, FAO, ILO.

Participation in Conferences and Other Meetings:

W C W O Representatives, over the last four years, have also attended the following ECOSOC Commission meetings: Commission on the Status of Women, PrepComs for the Commission for Social Development Commission on Human Rights, Population Commission, Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, April 2002), UNICEF's General Assembly on the Summit of Children (New York, May 2002) as well as three PrepComs leading up to the conference: 30 May - 02 June, 2000; 29 Jan - 02 Feb, 2001; 11-15 June, 2002,

UNIFEM meetings, UN General Assembly, the Executive Councils and General Conferences of UNESCO and FAO, and ILO.

In addition, WUCWO has participated in the UN Preparatory Committees (and relevant NGO Planning Committees) Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico), and UNICEF. UNHCR - WUCWO followed the process on protection which ended in December 2001 on the 50 t h anniversary of the UNHCR Refugee Convention when governments affirmed their support for it. It should be recalled that in the past it was due to NGO pressure that HCR began realizing women's problems and special needs and in collaboration with the Special Adviser on Children there is recognition that youth is often a neglected category among refugees. Our representative in Geneva has followed the " Open Ended Working Group on the Right to Development" particularly in relation to:

→Rights to education, food, adequate housing and extreme poverty;

→Follow up of international conferences, particularly WCAR, Johannesburg;

* Issued without formal editing.

→Integration of human rights of women and a gender perspective including violence against women,

contemporary forms of slavery, traditional practices affecting health, girl child and inheritance rights;

→Religious intolerance and collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or

belief;

→Rights of child, particularly child labour, children and armed conflict, sale, prostitution, pornography

and education rights in marginalized and minority communities;

→Migrant workers and displacement.

International Labour Organization:

-Advancement of women and " glass ceiling" ;

-Informal sector, in which majority are women;

-Implementation of ILO Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour;

-HIV/AIDS in workplace.

Statements: As WUCWO's interests are focused on social and economic development, oral and written statements are submitted jointly with other non-governmental organizations. The areas of concern "inter alia" are: women's health, violence against women, the girl child, ageing, AIDS, the environment, lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of human rights of women, food security, extreme poverty, child labour, debt relief, nutrition, sexual violence against children, child prostitution, pornography's focus on trafficking of women and girls and contemporary forms of slavery, rape as a war crime, education, female genital mutilation, racial discrimination, religious intolerance, women's unpaid work and strategies for development.

Cooperation with UN Programs, bodies and specialized agencies: WUCWO continues its dialogue with WHO and private funding agencies to conduct a project for the elimination of trachoma in several African nations beginning with Tanzania. WUCWO has obtained financial support for the UN Programme on Ageing and "Agequake" materials. Additional information shared:

→ UNIFEM videotape on VAW was mailed to every region of the world and is s d being used to educate women on violence. We are also working with the Conference of International Catholic Organizations on VAW.

→ Trafficking information was shared with all groups, especially in the regions of Asia (Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Australia, Republic of Korea) as well as Catholic women's groups in Nigeria.

→ Educational materials to help widows were distributed to our reps in Africa.

→Information on female genital mutilation was sent to South Africa, Nigeria, etc.

→ Working with Caritas International and other Catholic organizations to call for debt relief in developing countries.